



Nation states & International tensions

History Past Exam Questions

Ordinary Level

2013

Section 3-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Picture X on page 15 shows an advertisement from 1896. In it the Daimler car company launches its Wagonette on the British market. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

1. What speed can the Wagonette do on a level road?
2. What sort of engine does it have?
3. How is it made to appeal to the lover of the countryside?
4. What evidence does the advertisement offer that it was aimed at rich people?
5. How did Karl Benz contribute to the early history of the motor car?

B (30 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Bismarck's foreign policy.
2. The Second International.
3. Wilfred Owen.
4. The Paris Peace Settlement.

C (40 marks)
Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What problems were caused by Bismarck's relations with the Catholic Church in Germany?
2. How successful was Wilhelm II's foreign policy (including his naval policy)?
3. What did women contribute to the workforce during World War I?
4. How did Marie Curie and/or the Krupp family contribute to science/technology?

2012

Section 3-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract a German soldier describes the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July, 1916. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

At 7.30 a.m. the hurricane of British shells stopped. Our men at once clambered up the steep shafts leading from the dugouts to the daylight, and ran to the nearest shell holes. The machine-guns were hurriedly pulled out of the dugouts and placed in position. Then a series of lines were seen moving from the British trenches. The first line was quickly followed by a second line and then a third and fourth.

When the first line of British soldiers were within a few hundred yards, the rattle of machine-guns and rifle fire broke out along the whole line of our shell holes. The British advance rapidly crumbled under the hail of German shells and bullets.

Source: quoted in A.H. Farrar-Hockley, *The Somme*, Surrey: Pan/Severn House, 1976.

1. On the morning of 1 July, when did the British stop shelling the German trenches?
2. When the shelling stopped, what did the Germans do?
3. What did the Germans do with their machine-guns?
4. At what point did the Germans begin using their machine-guns?
5. Apart from the Somme, name one major battle on the Western Front, 1914-1918.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Anti-Semitism in France.
2. Pope Leo XIII.
3. Marie Curie.
4. The invention and early history of the motor car.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How successful was Bismarck's foreign policy?
2. What was the naval policy of Wilhelm II and how did it affect one or more other countries?
3. What did you learn about World War I from your study of Douglas Haig and/or Wilfred Owen?
4. In what ways did Woodrow Wilson influence the peace settlement following World War I?

2011

Section 1-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from an interview which Wilhelm II gave to the *Daily Telegraph*, in 1908, while on a visit to England. Read it and answer the questions which follow.

- *You English are mad, mad, mad.*
- *I have declared that my heart is set on peace. But your press bids the people of England to refuse my friendship.*
- *Germany has a worldwide commerce (trade) which is rapidly expanding. Germany must have a powerful fleet, to protect that commerce, in even the most distant seas.*

1. How does Wilhelm II insult the English?
2. Why does Wilhelm II criticise English newspapers?
3. What claims are made for Germany's commerce?
4. According to Wilhelm II, why does Germany need a powerful fleet?
5. What action did Britain take in response to the naval policy of Wilhelm II?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Krupp family.
2. Pope Leo XIII.
3. Women in the workforce during World War I.
4. Woodrow Wilson and Europe.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What steps did Otto von Bismarck take in foreign policy or Church-State relations in Germany?
2. What were the main developments in the invention and early history of the motor car?
3. What did you learn about World War I from your study of Wilfred Owen?
4. What was the importance of Marie Curie and/or Rosa Luxemburg?

2009

Section 3-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract from the *Manchester Guardian* (16/3/1917) comments on the threat by male taxi-drivers in London to strike, on hearing that women were to be licensed to drive taxi-cabs. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

To be successful, a strike must be in defence of a principle that commands a measure of public support. The only principle for which the men stand in this strike is that, even where women are fitted to do men's work, they should be debarred from it.

If the employment of women as motor-drivers meant a decrease in the general level of skill in the trade, a worsening of conditions, or a lowering of wages, a real principle would be involved. In this matter such considerations do not arise.

Hundreds of women have taken the place of men as motor-drivers for the army and the Red Cross, at home and abroad. Thousands more are employed in driving commercial motors. They have proved, if proof were needed, that this work is well within their ability.

1. Mention one condition which, according to the writer, would justify a strike.
2. Why were the male taxi-drivers opposed to women driving taxis?
3. What driving were women doing already?
4. Whom does the *Manchester Guardian* favour, the male taxi-drivers or the women? Explain your answer.
5. Apart from driving, what did women contribute to the workforce during the First World War?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Krupp family.
2. The naval policy of Wilhelm II.
3. Anti-Semitism in France and/or Russia.
4. Woodrow Wilson and Europe.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How successful was Otto von Bismarck as Chancellor of Germany?
2. Why was Marie Curie an important figure in the development of science and medicine?
3. What were the main developments in the invention and early history of the motor car?
4. What did you learn about World War I from your study of Douglas Haig and/or Wilfred Owen?

2008

Section 3-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an extract from notes of a conversation with Bismarck, written by a British diplomat in 1885. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

He (Bismarck) said that Mr Gladstone might become Prime Minister again, a man with whom it was impossible to do business.

But the policy Bismarck had followed on colonial matters in Africa was not inspired by any feeling of hostility towards England. He had sided with France on colonial matters in Africa in order to reduce the hatred of France towards Germany.

However, this policy did not have the desired effect because France was as hostile as ever towards Germany. In fact France was ready to seize any opportunity of attacking Germany in order to regain Alsace-Lorraine.

P.H. Currie, a member of the British Foreign Office, on 28 September, 1885.

1. What was Bismarck's opinion of the British leader, Mr Gladstone?
2. Why had Bismarck sided with France on colonial matters in Africa?
3. Did Bismarck's support for France produce the desired effect on France? Explain your answer.
4. Why was France 'ready to seize any opportunity' of attacking Germany?
5. What was Bismarck's policy towards the New Imperialism?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Industrialisation in Germany.
2. Serbia, 1871-1914.
3. Developments in science, technology and medicine, 1871-1920.
4. Woodrow Wilson.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the naval policy of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and how did it affect relations with Britain during the period, 1890-1914?
2. Why was the career of Pope Leo XIII important in the history of the Catholic Church?
3. How did women contribute to the workforce during World War I, 1914-1918?
4. How did the activities of Rosa Luxemburg influence events in Germany in the years before 1920?

2007

Section 3-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 2
Nation states and international tensions, 1871-1920

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes.

This is an edited extract from the telegram sent by the German Foreign Minister, Alfred Zimmermann, to the German ambassador in Mexico. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

Berlin, 19 January 1917

On the first of February we intend to begin unrestricted submarine warfare. In spite of this, it is our intention to keep neutral the United States of America.

If this is not successful, we propose an alliance with Mexico on the following basis: that we shall make war together, and together, make peace.

It is understood that Mexico is to recover her lost territories in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.

The use of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to force England to make peace in a few months.

Zimmermann.

1. What does Germany intend to do on the first day of February?
2. If the United States does not remain neutral, what does Zimmermann propose to do?
3. What does Mexico hope to gain from an alliance with Germany?
4. What will force England to make peace?
5. Give one reason why the United States entered World War I in April 1917.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Church/State tensions in Germany.
2. Colonial rivalries.
3. The Paris Peace Settlement.
4. Rosa Luxemburg.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What was the naval policy of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and how did it affect relations with Britain?
2. Why is Marie Curie important in the development of science and medicine?
3. What was the importance of Karl Benz and/or the Krupp family for the industrial development of Germany?
4. What part did women and/or Douglas Haig play in World War I?

2006

Section 3-Question 2

Europe and the wider world: Topic 3
Dictatorship and democracy in Europe, 1920-1945

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Picture X on page 15 is a cartoon depicting the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, 1939. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

1. Name each of the two leaders shown in the cartoon.
2. The cartoon shows the two leaders marching together. Why do you think that they are shown bound together at the foot?
3. Why do you think each leader has a hand on his gun?
4. The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact was broken in June 1941. How was the pact broken?
5. Give one major reason why Nazi Germany was defeated in World War II.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The Vichy state in France between 1940 and 1945.
2. Winston Churchill.
3. Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.
4. Charlie Chaplin or Bing Crosby.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What were the successes and failures in the career of Benito Mussolini?
2. What was the importance of Stalin's show trials in Soviet Russia?
3. How did the Jarrow March reflect the social and economic problems of industrial England in the 1930s?
4. How did the Nuremberg Rallies help bring support to the Nazi regime in Germany?